Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 18 is amended as set forth hereinafter.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A portable, hand-guided work apparatus defining a longitudinal axis and comprising:

a frame extending substantially in the direction of said longitudinal axis;

said frame having a first end and a second end lying opposite said first end;

an assembly including: a drive motor and a work tool driven by said drive motor and said assembly being fixed on said frame at said first end;

a handle unit mounted on said second end for guiding said work apparatus during operation thereof with said work tool being in contact engagement with the surface of the earth to be worked by said work tool thereby defining a work position of said work apparatus;

said handle unit including two handles and two symmetrically configured handle tubes;

said two handles being mounted on respective ones of said handle tubes and being separate from each other; and,

said two handles being configured so as to be directed upwardly and away from said surface when said work apparatus is in said work position thereof.

2. (Previously Presented) The work apparatus of claim 1,

wherein said two handles have a clear space therebetween and run upwardly toward each other when said work apparatus is in said work position.

3. (Original) The work apparatus of claim 2, wherein said two handles are inclined in a direction toward said work tool when said work apparatus is in said work position.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The work apparatus of claim 1, wherein said handle tubes conjointly define an enclosed intermediate space open to an operator of said work apparatus.

6. (Original) The work apparatus of claim 5, wherein said handle tubes are pivotally mounted on said frame; and, wherein said work apparatus further comprises means for receiving and releasably holding said handle tubes when they are pivoted or folded over on said frame.

7. (Original) The work apparatus of claim 6, wherein said handle tubes are disposed on corresponding sides of said frame when said handle tubes are folded over.

8. (Original) The work apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a rearward carrying handle mounted on the side of said frame facing toward said handle unit.

9. (Original) The work apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a forward handle mounted in a region between said drive motor and said work tool.

10. (Original) The work apparatus of claim 9, wherein said forward handle lies approximately at the center of gravity when said handle tubes are folded over.

11. (Original) The work apparatus of claim 10, wherein said means for receiving and holding said handle tubes comprises lateral supports in which said handle tubes lie when said handle tubes are folded over.

12. (Previously Presented) The work apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a transverse strut connecting said handle tubes to each other; and, said transverse strut lying between said rearward handle and said drive motor when said handle tubes are folded over.

13. (Original) The work apparatus of claim 12, wherein said handle tubes conjointly define a plane; each of said handles and said plane conjointly define an angle (α) perpendicular to said longitudinal axis with said angle (α) being in a range of 60° to 85°.

14. (Original) The work apparatus of claim 13, wherein said angle (α) lies in a range of 70° to 80°.

15. (Original) The work apparatus of claim 13, wherein each of said handles and said plane conjointly define an angle (β) in a range of 60° to 100° in the direction of said longitudinal axis.

16. (Original) The work apparatus of claim 15, wherein said angle (β) lies in a range of 70° to 80°.

17. (Previously Presented) The work apparatus of claim 1, wherein said frame has a forward support and a rearward support; and, said forward support and said rearward support define an imaginary line running at a distance (a) from said work tool.

18. (Currently Amended) The work apparatus [[at]] <u>of</u> claim 1, wherein said work apparatus is a motor-driven cultivator.

19. (Previously Presented) A portable, hand-guided work apparatus defining a longitudinal axis and comprising:

a frame extending substantially in the direction of said longitudinal axis;

said frame having a first end and a second end lying opposite said first end;

an assembly including: a drive motor and a work tool driven by said drive motor and said drive motor of said assembly being fixedly mounted on said frame at said first end;

a handle unit mounted on said second end for guiding said work apparatus during operation thereof with said work tool being in contact engagement with the surface of the earth to be worked by said work tool thereby defining a work position of said work apparatus;

said handle unit including two handles and two symmetrically configured handle tubes;

said two handles being mounted on respective ones of said handle tubes;

said two handles being configured so as to be directed upwardly and away from said surface when said work apparatus is in said work position thereof; and,

said motor having a drive shaft extending outwardly beyond said first end of said frame and said work tool being carried by said drive shaft for performing said work in the earth and to define the sole support on the ground of said work apparatus during operational use thereof.

20. (Previously Presented) The work apparatus of claim 19, wherein said two handles are inclined in a direction toward said work tool when said work apparatus is in said work position.

21. (Previously Presented) The work apparatus of claim 20, wherein said handle tubes conjointly define an enclosed intermediate space open to an operator of said work apparatus so as to permit the operator to enter said space with said handles being at respective sides of the operator.